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BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON USIA FACILITIES PLANNING

1. There is set forth below, for the information of interested agencies, the USIA plans for international radio facilities which have been approved subsequent to NSC action 1386-b.
2. USIA maintains a continuing review of its need for transmitting facilities in terms of its mission, its resources, and US foreign policy and international political developments.
3. At a meeting held in October 1955 the following decisions were reached in the light of all the facts and estimates then available.

Philippines:

It was decided to proceed with the installation of two 100-KW shortwave transmitters at the existing San Fernando installation in the Philippines at a cost of \$405,000 (plus warehoused equipment) and to close down the existing Malolos plant in the Philippines, with a resultant saving in operating costs of about \$360,000 per year. At that time consideration was given to the installation of two 500-KW shortwave transmitters at a new site in the Philippines. This was recommended in the ODM Report of March 24, 1955. It was decided that this project would not be undertaken, at least at present, because the number of additional shortwave receivers which would be covered by the increased power (1.5 million) would not justify the construction cost of \$5.8 million (plus warehoused equipment) and increased operating costs estimated at \$550,000 annually.

4. Tangier:

At a meeting in November a proposal was approved to install two 500 KW shortwave transmitters at Tangier. The basis for this decision was that these facilities would increase the signals in areas of high jamming intensity and important population centers, relatively low installation cost (about \$3.3 million plus warehouse equipment) and availability of no-year construction funds; also because the Tangier proposal would largely overlap the same coverage as that which would have been provided from the Lemnos, Greece shortwave proposal. The Tangier project will increase coverage in the USSR proper by an estimated 1.2 million receivers and improve present coverage in the satellites including the Balkans. This approved project coincides with one of the recommendations included in the ODM Report of March 24, 1955.

5. Greek Area:

In February 1956, proposals for replacing the COURIER with a land

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- 2 -

based transmitter were considered by USIA. Approval was given to the installation of one 500-KW mediumwave transmitter with directional antenna and power generating capacity to operate it at 250-KW power to be based on the Island of Rhodes, or elsewhere in the Greek area, at a cost of \$2.8 million. This will increase the nighttime mediumwave coverage from an estimated 1.1 million receivers to 2.8 million receivers in the target area. Operating costs will be reduced from about \$607,000 per year to \$450,000 per year. Reduced interruptions of operations and generally improved reception throughout the area are predicted. A supplemental budget request has been approved by the Bureau of the Budget in the amount of \$2 million. The remaining \$830,000 will come from no-year construction funds, thereby exhausting that resource.

Installation of a 1000-KW mediumwave transmitter for targets lying to the east, southeast and south, and in the Soviet orbit, was considered. This was recommended in the ODM Report of March 24, 1955. The conclusion was reached, as for targets to the east, southeast and south, that the additional cost of such installation as compared with that of the 250-KW transmitter was not warranted in view of the marked lack of a proportional increase in populations covered; as for the Soviet orbit it was concluded that the probable net improvement in coverage based upon past experience with mediumwave jamming did not justify the cost. It was also decided that there would be no additional shortwave transmitters in the Greek area as recommended in the ODM Report of March 24, 1955, except for standby communications purposes, because the new two 500-KW shortwave transmitters at Tangier would provide the coverage now being provided by the two 35-KW shortwave transmitters on the COURIER. The cost of installing one 1000-KW mediumwave and two 500-KW shortwave transmitters in the Greek area was estimated at \$8.3 million (plus warehouse equipment) and an increase in annual operating cost of \$950,000.

6. It has been learned that plans by a private U. S. organization for installation of one 1000-KW mediumwave transmitter in Turkey have been abandoned. This same organization is developing plans for the installation of two 500-KW shortwave transmitters in Lisbon. Another private U. S. organization is exploring the possibility of installing two 500-KW shortwave transmitters in Spain.

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